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TOP SECRET

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1. Bao Dai's "objectives" in visiting France--US Ambassador Bruce in Paris has learned from Emperor Bao Dai's entourage already in France that Bao plans to remain in France for about two months. The Emperor's advance guard, which is vigorously defending the Emperor's visit, stated that the four main reasons for Bao's visit at this time are: (a) to provide close moral support and direction for the Vietnamese delegates meeting with French representatives to work out methods for speeding up the achievement of Indochinese independence within the French Union; (b) to conclude an agreement with the French defining the powers of the Vietnamese High Commissioner in France and the French High Commissioner in Indochina; (c) to clarify the responsibilities and functions of the new Vietnamese army; and (d) to arrange for an early return of the Empress to Vietnam. Bruce comments that the foregoing "reasons" may have been filled in after Bao's decision to visit France and that the Vietnamese are apparently determined to use Bao's presence in France to their best advantage.

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